

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 22159 281758Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2594

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22159

DEPARTMENT PASS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, XF, SY

SUBJECT: FRENCH COMMENT ON SYRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD
EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS AUGUST 28,
QUAI DIRECTOR FOR THE ME CERLES EXPRESSED
PROFOUND SATISFACTION THAT A SECOND ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN
ACCORD WAS ABOUT TO BE SIGNED. WITHOUT SUCH AN AGREE-
MENT, HE SAID, A NEW WAR IN THE ME WOULD BE INEVITABLE
BEFORE THE END OF 1976. HE LAUDED THE SECRETARY'S ROLE
IN NEGOTIATIONS.

2. REPLYING TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE SYRIAN ATTITUDE,
CERLES SAID THAT THE HARD LINE CURRENTLY BEING TAKEN BY
FONMIN KHADDAM SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LITERALLY. AT THE
VERY MOMENT KHADDAM WAS PUBLICLY CRITICIZING THE ACCORD,
CERLES SAID, THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT MADE AN OFFICIAL
PROTEST TO FRANCE ABOUT AN ARTICLE BY ERIC ROULEAU IN
LE MONDE OF AUGUST 24-25 ENTITLED "SUSPICION AND
FIRMNESS IN DAMASCUS" WHICH THE SYRIANS COMPLAINED GAVE
TOO NEGATIVE A VIEW OF THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD A NEW
AGREEMENT. CERLES SPECULATED THAT THE SYRIANS HAVE
ALREADY BEEN REASSURED THAT ISRAEL WILL SHORTLY NEGOT-
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PAGE 02 PARIS 22159 281758Z

IATE A GOLAN PULL-BACK AND THAT THEY, IN CONSEQUENCE,

ARE NOT OPPOSED TO THE ACCORD BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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